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10/668,849	09/23/2003	David S. Benco	28-21-21-22-21	4961

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Docket Administrator (Room 3J-219)
Lucent Technologies Inc.
101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030

EXAMINER

KUNAMNENI, HARI P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,849

Applicant(s)

BENCO ET AL.

Examiner

Hari Kunamneni

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sept 23, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 2, and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 9, the word "a" should be changed to --the-- in front of the phrase virtual conference".

Claim 2 and 3, line 2 in front of "virtual conference information", the definite article --the-- should be added.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

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applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1,2,4 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al (US 6754323).

Chang et al teaches:

For claim 1:

A method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a host terminal, a request to set up a virtual conference (in column 5, para 1, para 2, para 3, para 4; column 6, para 1, para 2, para 3, para 4, para 5; and column 7, para 1 and para 2, which the reference provides various methods to receive to setup a conference, like see also FIG. 3, item 300);

determining selected attributes of the virtual conference (FIG. 6, steps 600, 610, 620, 630, 640 determine the conferences by creating type I message);

retrieving information supporting the selected attributes, the information defining virtual conference information (FIG. 7 and 8 in conjunction with FIG. 9 retrieve the attributes, as an example, step 910, extracts number of conference participants, step 920, A List Of N Unused, Allocated Bridge ports, step 940, Extract Participant Telephone Numbers, etc.) ;

sending at least a portion of the virtual conference information to a virtual conference bridge (see FIG. 3, item 330); and

connecting the host terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby establishing a virtual conference including at least the host terminal (see FIG. 3, item 340, connect Participants To Conference Session).

For claim 2:

The method of claim 1 (see supra for claim 1 discussion), wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving virtual conference information from a virtual conference database (For use of conference database, see Column 5, lines 59-61, "Conference logistics and participant profile data may be provisioned or input by a subscriber into the conference database 135 using various techniques").

For claim 4:

The method of claim 1 (see supra for claim 1 discussion), wherein the step of determining selected attributes comprises receiving indicia of options selected via the host terminal (see columns 6, lines 25-31 describing attributes sent from host terminal by various techniques, for example, "NUMBER=4045551234',

'NUMBER=4045559876' ... 'TIME=090000'...', column 6, lines 28-30).

For claim 9:

The method of claim 1(see supra for claim 1 discussion),
further comprising:

receiving, from at least one participating terminal, a request to join the virtual conference (There are several methods to receive the information to join the conference by inserting information into the conference data base. For such one example refer to column 6, lines13-22, "When using a web-based form, a subscriber having a browser running on a computer 160 with an Internet 150 connection accesses a provisioning form by supplying a uniform resource locator (URL) for such a form. The subscriber may enter provisioning information (such as a conference name, conference participant's name, conference participants' phone number, and the data and time of the teleconference) into the form and send the form entries as a CGI string, in one embodiment, to a provisioning software interface." In conjunction with reference to FIG. 3, item 310); and

connecting the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby joining the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference (See FIG. 7, 8 and 9 to see how the participant is connected by conference bridge (see specifically FIG. 9, item 960).)

For claim 10:

The method of claim 9(see supra for claim 9 discussion), wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving virtual conference information from one or more of: the virtual conference database (See FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 in conjunction with see column 10, lines 2-5, "As discussed previously, conference information (in the form of a conference record, in one embodiment) is stored in a conference database 135 and/or a data store 210."), the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, the virtual conference information from the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal including facial images of operators of the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal.

For claim 11:

The method of claim 10(see supra for claim 10 discussion), further comprising: filtering (see filtering of messages into type 1(FIG. 6, Item 630), type 2 (FIG. 7, Item 740), and type 3 (FIG. 8, Item 840) received from virtual conference data base) the virtual conference information retrieved from one or more of: the virtual conference database, the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, yielding filtered information; and

sending the filtered information to the virtual conference bridge (The filtered information is sent to conference bridge as shown in FIG. 9, Item 360).

For claim 12:

The method of claim 11(see supra for claim 11 discussion), further comprising:

supplementing the filtered information, yielding supplemented filtered information (See FIG. 9, Item 940-945, the filtered type message is further supplemented with current phone number from a profile data base); and

sending the supplemented filtered information to the virtual conference bridge (See FIG. 9, Item 960, where the

supplemental information is sent to conference bridge through the conference connector).

For claim 13:

The method of claim 10, further comprising:

supplementing (See FIG. 9, Item 940-945, the filtered type message is further supplemented with current phone number from a profile data base) the virtual conference information retrieved from one or more of: the virtual conference database, the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, yielding supplemented retrieved information; and sending the supplemented retrieved information to the virtual conference bridge (See FIG. 9, Item 960, where the supplemental information is sent to conference bridge through the conference connector).

4. Claims 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boyle et al (US 6421324).

For claim 14:

A method comprising:

establishing a virtual conference comprising a host terminal (FIG. 1, item 140 (END USER) as host terminal initiating the call) and one or more participating terminals connected to a virtual conference bridge (FIG. 2A, ITEM(S) 150 A-N connected to 140 END USER through conference bridge and switch);

communicating virtual conference information (FIG. 2A, item 225 (OBTAIN FROM DATABASE A PLURALITY (GROUP) OF CALLED PARTY NUMBERS FOR CONFERENCE/BROADCAST CORRESPONDING TO GROUP IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION AND CALLING PARTY NUMBER) among the host terminal (FIG. 1, item 140 (END USER)) and one or more participating terminals (FIG. 1, items 150 A-N, plurality of END USER TERMINALS) via the virtual conference bridge (FIG. 1, item 130, CONFERENCE BRIDGE).

For claim 19:

A system comprising:

a switching center (FIG. 1, item 110 or FIG. 3, item 330);

a virtual conference database (FIG. 1, Item 125 or FIG. 3, Item 320); and

a virtual conference bridge (FIG. 1, item 130 or FIG. 3, item 330), the switching center being operable to retrieve virtual conference information from the virtual conference database and send the information to the virtual conference bridge (FIG. 2A, items 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225 (Retrieves the conference information (OBTAIN FORM DATABASE A PLURALITY (GROUP) OF CALLED PARTY NUMBERS FRO CONFERENCE/BROADCAST CORRESPONDING TO GROUP IDENTIFICATION INFORMTAION AND CALLING PARTY NUMBER)), and 230 (TRANSMIT PLURALITY OF CALLED PARTY NUMBERS TO SWITCH FOR ROUTING OF OUTGOING CALL LEGS)) the switching center further being operable to connect a host terminal and one or more participating terminals to the virtual conference bridge, thereby establishing a virtual conference where the host terminal and participating terminals may receive the virtual conference information (FIG. 1, 110 (SWITCH) connecting END USER 140 TO END USER(S) 150).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over chang et al in view of McNerney et al. (US 5,999,208).

For claim 3, Chang et al teaches everything (for discussion see claim1 discussion) except for sharing one or more of facial images of host operating host terminal.

The general concept of sharing one or more of facial images of host operating host terminal is well known in the art as illustrated by McNerney et al. (see column 6, lines 3-4, "Alternatively, the image of the conference participant can be received as part of the transmission for their terminal." In conjunction with column 5, lines 64-67, "The graphical user interface 601 conference participants are identified as located in a selected chair 610 and an image is displayed in each chair.)"

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Chang et al. to provide image of host operating the host terminal in order to provide user friendly access to teleconference services and/or participate in multiple meetings as taught in McNerney et al (column 5, lines 25-28, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services and enables the participant to simultaneously participate in multiple meetings.").

For claim 5, Chang et al teaches everything (see claim 4 discussion supra) except providing the room type to the conference.

The general concept of using the room type is well in the art, as illustrated by McNerney et al (see FIG. 5 A-E, in conjunction with column 5, lines 32-34, "The virtual reality meeting room presently comprises a plurality of meeting rooms, three [see FIG. 6, items 611, 612, 613] of which are shown in FIGS. 5A-5E.").

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Chang et al to provide room type in order to create panning effect as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 42-44, "FIGS. 5A-5E illustrate five of these snapshots to illustrate the panning effect that is provided to the user.").

For claim 6, Chang et al teaches everything (see claim 4 discussion supra) except providing the outdoor environment to the conference.

The general concept of providing outdoor environment well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (see column 6, lines 21-22, "by departing through the conference room exit door 609 and traversing a hallway [this is conference room outdoor environment] to another conference room."

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Chang et al to provide outdoor environment in order to an user to navigate to other conferences as taught in McNerney et al (see column 6, lines 19-23, "The user can navigate between the various conferences by either panning the view from room to room or by departing through the conference room exit door 609 and traversing a hallway to another conference room.").

For claim 7, Chang et al teaches everything (see claim 4 discussion supra) except providing the presentation medium to the conference.

The general concept of providing graphics presentation medium to the conference is well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (See FIG. 6, items 605 (VCR), 606(BLACKBOARD), 607 (projector), which are presentation medium(s)).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Chang et al to provide presentation medium to the conference in order to provide user-friendly access to the mixed media as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 25-27, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services ...").

For claim 8, Chang et al teaches everything (see claim 4 discussion supra) except providing the meeting room facility to the conference.

The general concept of providing meeting room facility to the conference is well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (See FIG. 4, meeting room facility as illustrated by image of file drawers (item 603), mail box (item 604), video tape player (605), backboard (item 606), projector screen (607), door (item 609), and chair(s) (item 610)).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Chang et al to provide meeting room facility to the conference in order to provide user-friendly access to the mixed media as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 25-27, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services ...").

7. Claims 15-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyle et al. in view of McNerney et al.

For claim 15, Boyle et al teaches everything (see claim 14 discussion supra) except providing the room type to the conference.

The general concept of using the room type is well in the art, as illustrated by McNerney et al (see FIG. 5 A-E, in conjunction with column 5, lines 32-34, "The virtual reality meeting room presently comprises a plurality of meeting

rooms, three [see FIG. 6, items 611, 612, 613] of which are shown in FIGS. 5A-5E.”).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Boyle et al to provide room type in order to create panning effect as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 42-44, “FIGS. 5A-5E illustrate five of these snapshots to illustrate the panning effect that is provided to the user.”).

For claim 16, Boyle et al teaches everything (see claim 14 discussion supra) except providing the outdoor environment to the conference.

The general concept of providing outdoor environment well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (see column 6, lines 21-22, “by departing through the conference room exit door 609 and traversing a hallway [this is conference room outdoor environment] to another conference room.”

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Boyle et al to provide outdoor environment in order to an user to navigate to other conferences as taught in McNerney et al (see column 6, lines 19-23, “The user can navigate between the various conferences by either panning the view from room to room or by departing through the conference room exit door 609 and traversing a hallway to another conference room.”).

For claim 17, Boyle et al teaches everything (see claim 14 discussion supra) except providing the images of presentation medium to the conference.

The general concept of providing images of presentation medium to the conference is well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (See FIG. 6, items 605 (VCR), 606(BLACKBOARD), 607 (projector), which are presentation medium(s)).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Boyle et al to provide presentation medium to the conference in order to provide user-friendly access to the mixed media as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 25-27, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services ...").

For claim 18, Boyle et al teaches everything (see claim 14 discussion supra) except providing the meeting room facility to the conference.

The general concept of providing meeting room facility to the conference is well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (See FIG. 4, meeting room facility as illustrated by image of file drawers (item 603), mail box (item 604), video tape player (605), backboard (item 606), projector screen (607), door (item 609), and chair(s) (item 610)).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Boyle et al to provide meeting room facility to the conference in order to provide user-friendly access to the mixed media as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 25-27, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services ...").

For claim 20, Boyle et al teaches everything (see claim 19 discussion supra) except providing one or more of images of: a room type, an outdoor environment, a presentation medium and a meeting room facility, to the conference.

The general concept of providing one or more of images of: a room type, an outdoor environment, a presentation medium and a meeting room facility, to the conference is well known in the art as illustrated by Mcnerney et al (for room type see FIG. 5 A-E, in conjunction with column 5, lines , "The virtual reality meeting room presently comprises a plurality of meeting rooms, three [see FIG. 6, items 611, 612, 613] of which are shown in FIGS. 5A-5E."; for outdoor environment see see column 6, lines 21-22, "by departing through the conference room exit door 609 and traversing a hallway [this is conference room outdoor environment] to another conference room."; for presentation medium see See FIG. 6, items 605 (VCR), 606(BLACKBOARD), 607 (projector), which are presentation medium(s); for meeting room facility see FIG. 4, meeting room facility as illustrated by image of file drawers (item 603), mail box (item 604), video tape player (605), backboard (item 606), projector screen (607), door (item 609), and chair(s) (item 610)).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Boyle et al to provide one or more of images of: a room type, an outdoor environment, a presentation medium and a meeting room facility, to the

conference in order to provide user-friendly access to the mixed media as taught in McNerney et al (see column 5, lines 25-27, "The virtual reality meeting room provides a user-friendly access to the mixed media teleconference services ...").

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hari Kunamneni whose telephone number is (571)274-1592. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-5:00 PM alt. fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, FRANTZ JULES can be reached on (571)272-6681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

hpk
4/13/2007

FRANTZ JULES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frantz Jules', is written over the printed name and title.